(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the State Government has asked for supply of second-line drugs to all the blocks of malaria-affected region; and

(e) if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The team from Regional Office of Health and Family Welfare, Bhubneshwar, Field Station of National Institute of Malaria Research and Directorate of National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme are sent from time to time to assess the situation and to suggest containment measures. In addition, a meeting of Technical Experts is proposed by the World Health Organization at Bhubaneshwar to deliberate the issues related to Malaria transmission and mortality.

(d) and (e) The State is being supplied Artesunate + Sulphapyremethamin (combi blisters) for treating Pf cases in 15 chloroquine resistance Public Health Centres (PHCs) and surrounding clusters, in 11 districts, in accordance with National Drug Policy for treatment of malaria cases.

Bird flu

652. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that bird flu is reported in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government had failed in preventing this dreaded disease during the last one year; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir, The first outbreak of Avian Influenza among poultry was reported in February, 2006 confined to small part of Western India covering portions of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. The action plan for preparedness, control and containment both for Health and Animal Husbandry sector was put into operation during the above mentioned outbreaks. The disease was stamped out in April, 2006 and the country achieved freedom from the disease in August, 2006. No outbreak of the disease was reported till 25th of July, 2007 when an outbreak among poultry was notified in Village Chingmeirong, East Imphal district of Manipur. This has also been contained without further evidence of spread.

No human cases of Avian Influenza have been reported in any of these outbreaks.